

July 2014



## Birthdays

Davey Ferrell 7/1  
John Flynt 7/1  
Jason Hayes 7/1  
Rob Vaughter 7/2  
Tamarius Howse 7/3  
Ted Pertiller 7/7  
Paul Diawara 7/8  
William Murray 7/9  
Ben Honeycutt 7/12  
Brian Lowe 7/13  
David Simms 7/14  
Jamie Layhew 7/16  
Bobby Brewer 7/18  
Chad Davis 7/24  
Lance Sutton 7/24  
Ryan Daniel 7/25  
Titus Jackson 7/26  
Mike Keith 7/28  
David Wade 7/28  
Laurie Alsup 7/29

## City Holiday

MFRD's Administrative Office  
will be closed on  
**Friday, July 4, 2014**  
in observance of  
Independence Day.

If you need immediate assistance,  
contact MFRD Headquarters  
At 615-849-2661.

## MFRD AND MPD WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE FOURTH OF JULY SAFE FOR COMMUNITY

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department and Murfreesboro Police Department are working together to make this Fourth of July safe for all in the community.

MPD will have residential patrols as well as increased traffic enforcement over the holiday weekend. Officers will strictly enforce speeding, seat belt, DUI, and other traffic related laws as well as the City fireworks regulations.



Both MPD and MFRD will be present at the city-sponsored "Celebration Under the Stars" event on July 4 at McKnight Park.

MPD will provide traffic and event control. MFRD will have the Special Events Team tent set up for the day's festivities and will be able to provide first responder assistance if necessary. MFRD's award-winning Honor Guard will present colors at the opening ceremony and crews will be posted at the site where the fireworks will be launched. Fire engines as well as a brush truck will be on standby during the fireworks show.

In Murfreesboro's city limits, fireworks may only be used between June 28 and July 5 between the hours of 10:00 am and 10:00 pm only; except that on the Fourth of July, fireworks may be used until 11:00 pm.

The Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind citizens that it is unlawful for any person to use any item of fireworks on private property without the consent of the property owner or for any person to use any item of fireworks on public property including public streets.

"It is also unlawful for anyone in the City of Murfreesboro to sell, use, or possess any mortar firework with a single tube, if that tube has been preloaded with a shell and the tube or shell has a diameter of one and a half inches," said Assistant Fire Marshal Michael Bartlett. "Anyone in the city limits is also prohibited from selling, using, or possessing reloadable fireworks and bottle rockets."

Bartlett and CityTV filmed a public service announcement to demonstrate fireworks safety techniques and to educate the public on the fireworks laws in the City of Murfreesboro.

For more information on Fireworks Safety or on the City's Celebration Under the Stars, visit the City's website at [www.murfreesborotn.gov](http://www.murfreesborotn.gov).





# MFRD PLACES TWO NEW HEAVY RESCUES IN SERVICE

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department recently placed two new heavy rescue trucks in service.

The new rescues were assigned to Stations 7 (North Thompson Lane) and 9 (Cason Lane), which serve as MFRD's special operations stations.

The units went through a special "backing ceremony" at their respective stations to represent the retirement of the old unit... "out with the old, in with the new." ([see YouTube video](#))

The "state of the art" trucks were purchased to enhance MFRD's special operations capabilities and response.

"The two new heavy rescues are better equipped to deal with any type of special operations response," said Assistant Chief Kaye Jernigan, who also serves as head of the Fire Apparatus Specifications Committee. "The larger trucks, capable of holding more equipment and more personnel, will also be beneficial at fire scenes," she continued.

With the approval of Murfreesboro's City Council, MFRD was able to purchase the units as part of the City's Capital Improvement Program. The units arrived from the EVI Plant (Lakeland, Florida) at the end of May.

"Our Station 7 and 9 personnel spent countless hours mounting equipment on the units before they could be placed in service," said Jernigan. "It was a grueling task, but I think everyone was excited to be a part of the process."

## TRAINING

Prior to the units being placed in service personnel on all three shifts at Stations 7 and 9 received training to become familiar with the new rescues and the corresponding new equipment. For three days, employees practiced extrication scenarios at City of Murfreesboro's Fleet Services and Solid Waste departments.

"We would like to take the time to thank Jack Hyatt with Fleet Services and Joey Smith from Solid Waste for allowing us to use their facilities to train," said Shift Commander Tim Swann, who is one of the department's Special Operations Coordinators. "We would also like to thank Johnny Radford from Radford's Wrecker Service for delivering a total of eight cars to us for the training," he added.



# DECKER TO RETIRE AFTER 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

Captain/Shift Training Officer Robert “Bob” Decker will retire from Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department on July 13 after 27 years of service.

## CAREER/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Decker began his career with the department as a Firefighter in July 1987. “I was working construction, but I desired something with more stability,” said Decker. “I went to MFD Headquarters to inquire about a position and was thrilled when I got the opportunity.”

He was promoted to Driver in 1990, Captain in 1999, and Captain/Shift Training Officer in 2007.

Decker has been an active member of several of the department’s committees including the Training Facility Assessment and Planning Committee, the Fire Apparatus Specifications Committee, the General Order Committee, and the Citizens Fire Academy. Serving on the Training Assessment and Planning Committee, Decker was very instrumental in developing plans for MFRD’s future training facility. He was hoping he would see it materialize before he left, but said, “When it is built, I’ll be the first to stop by and check it out.”



Throughout his career, he has volunteered a lot of his time to coaching MFRD’s teams for both the Tennessee Ultimate Firefighting Challenge and the Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge. Under his leadership, the teams have brought home several victories. In fact, in MFRD’s first-ever Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge in 2013, the team placed fifth overall against twenty other departments from the southeastern region. The team also made it to the national competition.

In 2013, Decker was named “Noon Exchange Club Firefighter of the Year.” In his nomination letter, Chief Cumbey Gaines wrote, “To say that Bob has proven to be a valuable asset to the department may be an understatement. Though he is modest, he cannot hide the fact that he has had many accomplishments in his career with MFRD.”

## REFLECTING

When asked what he felt the biggest change over the span of his career was, Decker simply remarked, “Everything.” He continued, “When I started with the department, we rode on the back of the engine, we didn’t wear air packs, and you may be going into a fire by yourself; it’s a lot safer now.” Decker also said that fire suppression was the only service offered by the department when he was hired. “Now, we are providing most every service out there,” he said. “It’s great to see all the special operations services that we have progressed to and are currently offering to the community.”

“One of the best things about working with MFRD for the length of time that I have, is having the opportunity to see rookie Firefighters promoted through the ranks to Captain,” he commented.

As for Decker’s worst day at the department... “For me, it would have to be the Good Friday tornadoes,” he said. “It was the only time in my career I felt so overwhelmed. I didn’t know what to do or where to go. I was by myself in the beginning of the incident, but things evolved and we were able to figure it out.” His best day he says is “Everyday, there’s nothing like making a living doing something you love to do.” He went on to say, “The friendships I have made during my career are unbelievable. We are so much like a family; someone who’s never done the job can’t even begin to imagine that.”

When asked how he felt about retirement, Decker said, “It’s bittersweet, but it’s time.” Decker plans to spend time with his wife of 37 years, Ann, his three children, and seven grandchildren, and plans to do more golfing. “My wife makes all the tee times,” he said, “I think she likes it even more than me.”

“Bob will be truly missed,” said Chief Gaines. “He has been a tremendous asset to the Training Division and to the department as a whole, and we wish him much happiness and fulfillment in his retirement.”



## FIREFIGHTERS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL JUNE DAIRY DAYS MILKING COMPETITION

In June, Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department competed in the Annual June Dairy Days Milking Competition at Lane Agripark. Firefighters went up against the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office and Rutherford County EMS in this year's contest. Participants engaged in "Minute to Win It" games and ultimately faced off in the milking competition. Rutherford County EMS took first place this year and won the coveted silver milking can.

MFRD participants were Firefighters Jacob Follis, Mike Meeks, Shandrea Womack, and Matthew Young.



### July Anniversaries

**32 YEARS**  
Mary Madding

**27 YEARS**  
Bob Decker



## PERSONNEL CELEBRATE HELEN BROWN'S RETIREMENT



Mrs. Helen Brown with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology of Murfreesboro, formerly the Tennessee State Fire School, retired in June after 44 years and eight months of service.

MFRD personnel stopped by her retirement celebration to share their "well wishes."

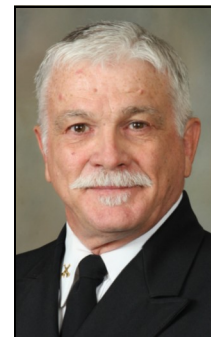
**Front Row (L to R):** Shift Commander Dale Maynard, Training Coordinator Billy Vinson, Helen Brown, Assistant Chief Kaye Jernigan, and Chief Cumbey Gaines. **Back Row (L to R):** Assistant Fire Marshal Carl Peas and Deputy Chief Roger Toombs.



## DECKER & VINSON NAMED FIREFIGHTERS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY 2014

Captain/Shift Training Officer Bob Decker and Training Coordinator Billy Vinson have been named Firefighters of the Month for July 2014. Both received the honor in recognition of their July retirements.

Decker (retiring July 13) served MFRD for 27 years and Vinson (July 3) served for 40 years. Vinson surpassed the department's modern-day years of service record of 39 years, which was previously held by Firefighter Joe Finney.



If you notice MFRD personnel providing exemplary service, displaying professionalism, or representing the City of Murfreesboro in a positive light, please share your experience by nominating them for a Service Excellence Stars Award.

Click here for more information or to [Nominate a STAR.](#)